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TCS	5-2029-6	53 - KH
28	August	1963

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant for Plans and Development

SUBJECT:

Development of a Data Block Reader

REFERENCE:

TCS-1482-63

- 1. The reference staff study regarding development of a DBR has been reviewed by TID personnel. There is no question that a DBR capable of accommodating any format in current or future use is urgently needed by NPIC. Of the three current data block formats now in use (KH-4, KH-6 and Index) the KH-6 is not likely to be in use by the time a DBR can be developed. No other known or proposed systems incorporate a data block requiring a DBR.
- 2. CSD has nearly completed construction of a DBR that encompasses most of the desired features as outlined in the reference paper. The two main features not included in the CSD instrument are the high reading speed and transmittal of readout by Dataphone. The CSD model can read as fast as 25 ft/min while the proposed model would read 150 ft/min. The CSD model produces punched cards while the proposed model would produce cards, tape or direct transmission of data. The capability for direct transmission of data by Dataphone to the computer would be beneficial only if the DBR were located at the processing site.
- 3. Location of the NPIC DBR at the processing site would permit preparation of a preliminary frame ephemeris (assuming the orbital data is available in time) prior to receipt of the film. If located at NPIC several hours would be required after receipt of film prior to generation of a frame ephemeris, approximately 3 hours with the proposed high speed DBR and 12 hours with the slower CSD reader. There is no immediate requirement for the index time and it is questionable that any requirement exists for readout of the KH-4 data sooner than 12 hours after delivery of the film that would justify the expenditure for such a DBR, provided the CSD reader operates satisfactorily as anticipated.
- It is probable that space, etc., can be provided to install a DBR at the processing site. Additional personnel would have to be sent to read out each mission. A costly and intricate transmittal system would be required to transmit data to NPIC and to provide for verification of the transmitted data.

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5. The CSD reader should be in operation about 1 October 1963. Considering the cost, requirements, and other factors involved, including the fact that a new DBR could not be developed and in operation before mid 1964, it is recommended that no action be taken until the CSD reader has been put into operation and its performance verified. If the CSD reader performs as planned there appears little justification for development of another DBR.

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Acting Chief, Technical Intelligence Division

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